

Patience and Contentment

"Dirty Words," Part 6 of 10
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I) THE PROBLEM: THE DISEASE OF DISCONTENT

Discontent is a __DISEASE__. Impatience is a __SYMPTOM__.

1) Discontent results when our __DESIRE__ for a different set of circumstances multiplies like a __BACTERIAL INFECTION__.

2) Impatience is like a __FEVER__ that occurs when we __HEAT UP__ to satiate the desire.

Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into ... into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.
(1 Timothy 6:6-9, NIV)

When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."
(Exodus 32:1, NIV)

II) THE WORLD'S CURE

1) Cure for the symptom of impatience: We force ourselves to __wait__.

2) Cure for the disease of discontent: We get ourselves what we __want__, now!

III) WHAT DOES EXPERIENCE TEACH US ABOUT THE WORLD'S CURE?

1) Impatience: "A watched pot never __BOILS__."

2) Discontent: If your criteria for contentment involve the word __"IF"__, you'll never get there.

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.
(Philippians 4:12, NIV)

IV) GOD'S CURE (from Philippians 4:1-9)

Patience and contentment are not about getting what we want, but __CHANGING OUR PERSPECTIVE__ to want what God gives us.

1) Contentment comes from cultivating the __LOVE__ of others.

Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the LORD, dear friends!
(Philippians 4:1, NIV)

2) Contentment comes from cultivating a spirit of __REJOICING__.

Rejoice in the LORD always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
(Philippians 4:4, NIV)

3) Contentment comes from learning to accept less than you __DESERVE__.

Let your gentleness be evident to all.
(Philippians 4:5a, NIV)

4) Contentment comes from a confident __FAITH__ in the LORD.

The LORD is near.
(Philippians 4:5b, NIV)

5) Contentment comes from reacting to your circumstances with __THANKFUL PRAYER__.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
(Philippians 4:6, NIV)

6) Contentment comes from developing the habit of thinking on __GODLY THINGS__.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.
(Philippians 4:8, NIV)

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
(Philippians 4:7, NIV)